

Color in Motion

Jenny Klukken

Self-Released

The opening cadenza of this album briefly reminds the listener that marimbist Jenny Klukken has a well-solidified classical background. The Latin-inspired melody that follows showcases her ability to lay down an authentic groove. This is the amazing thing about Klukken; she keeps the listeners on their toes. When one expects to hear a clichéd transitional phrase or solo intro, she takes it in a totally different direction!

Latin inspired tunes “Marimbista” and “Chapters” start off the album, followed by “Café Marcel” — a light waltz. While this is a marimbist’s album, Klukken makes room for the other musicians to express themselves. “La Pepica” is an energetic Latin tune, almost reminiscent of a Dave Samuels melody. “Song for Synnova” is a beautiful ballad that allows Klukken to express herself in a different manner than the previous tunes. “Supernova” starts with a nice, spacious groove, building in intensity. Chick Corea’s “Armando’s Rhumba” is the only piece not composed by Klukken. This is definitely a showcase for Klukken and a highlight of the album. “Poison” is a mysterious, yet grooving piece. “Talus Tango,” again surprises the listener with interwoven melodies and rhythms.

The musicians do an amazing job. They allow Klukken to shine by interacting with her, not by staying in the background. Klukken definitely has her own voice, both as a composer and performer. There are many musical surprises on this album. It is definitely recommended.

—Jeff W. Johnson